

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 constitute all currently pending claims in the application. Claim 1 is amended. Claim 7 is allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 allegedly because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner contends that it is unclear whether claim 1 falls into one of the enumerated categories of patentable subject matter and whether it is related to a process or an apparatus.

Applicant hereby amends claim 1 to further clarify the nature of the claim and its elements. Applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, is clearly statutory. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Allowed Subject Matter

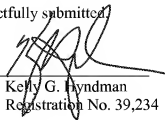
Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting the allowance of claim 7.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Unless a check is attached, any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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